

UNCLASSIFIED

INCOMING  
TELEGRAM

## Department of State

PAGE 01  
ACTION H-02

BUENOS 01339 171520Z

5870

A1056

INFO OCT-01 ARA-15 ADS-00 HA-05 /023 W  
-----070701 171607Z /41FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4277

UNCLAS BUENOS AIRES 1339

E.O. 12065: N/A  
TAGS: SHUM, AR  
SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES IN ARGENTINAH PASS: HONORABLE ROBERT F. DRINAN  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES WASHDC

1. DEAR CONGRESSMAN DRINAN:  
I AM WRITING IN RESPONSE TO YOUR LETTER OF FEB 4,  
1980, CONCERNING MEMBERS OF THE ARGENTINE JEWISH  
COMMUNITY PRESENTLY BEING DETAINED BY ARGENTINE  
AUTHORITIES.

2. I AM IN ENTIRE AGREEMENT WITH YOU ABOUT THE HOPEFUL  
SIGNIFICANCE OF THE TIMERMAN RELEASE. WHILE THAT EVENT  
HAS NOT BEEN FOLLOWED BY ANY SUDDEN AND MASSIVE  
REDUCTION IN NUMBERS OF "PODER EJECUTIVO NACIONAL"  
PRISONERS BEING HELD IN JAIL, THERE HAS BEEN A STEADY  
REDUCTION IN PEOPLE BEING HELD UNDER "PEN" IN THE  
SUBSEQUENT MONTHS. WE NOW CALCULATE THAT THERE ARE  
BETWEEN 1100-1200 PEN PRISONERS, THOUGH THE ARGENTINE  
AUTHORITIES HAVE NOT RELEASED ANY PRECISE FIGURES AND  
WE CANNOT BE SURE OF THIS FIGURE.

3. OF COURSE, THESE RELEASES DO NOTHING TO RELIEVE  
THE PLIGHT OF SOME OF THE INDIVIDUALS YOU NAME IN  
YOUR LETTER. (OTHERS NAMED IN YOUR LETTER APPEAR  
ON LISTS WE KEEP AS "DISAPPEARED", OF WHOM WE  
HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO OBTAIN FURTHER INFORMATION).

4. OUR EFFORTS ARE CONCENTRATED IN TRYING TO GET  
THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT TO RELEASE OUTRIGHT  
THOSE IT CANNOT LEGALLY CHARGE AND TRY, OR TO  
USE "RIGHT OF OPTION" PROCEDURES FOR ALLOWING  
PRISONERS TO GO ABROAD. WE WILL CONTINUE TO  
FOLLOW THIS APPROACH, WITH SPECIAL REGARD  
FOR THE INDIVIDUALS YOU NAME IN YOUR LETTER.

5. SINCERELY YOURS, RAUL CASTRO, AMBASSADOR.  
CASTRO

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

☒ Release ☐ Excise ☐ Deny

Exemption(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Declassify: ☐ In Part ☐ In Full☐ Classify as ☐ Extend as ☐ Downgrade to \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Declassify on \_\_\_\_\_ Reason \_\_\_\_\_

LOT 82D177

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BOX 8114 (2/21)